

REMARKS

In the previous response it was pointed out that, in Figures 35 and 36, the clamps that clamp the sheet 2 to the heating plate 20 have been removed at the point in time when two sheets are secured together. The only figures that show sheets 1 and 2 being combined are Figures 35 and 36. Thus, the claimed invention teaches away from the claimed feature of combining two sheets while physically flattening one of the sheets.

The suggestion that the claimed feature is obvious in view of a reference which explicitly teaches away is perplexing. Namely, while the Examiner contends that the references teach flattening (and the Applicant contends that they do not), the fact that they join the sheets while removing the alleged agent of flattening proves that when the sheets are joined they are not flattened. Moreover, it adds credence to the argument that the sheets are never flattened.


The Examiner asserts that the Yakou reference teaches holding the sheets in a vacuum chuck 608. This is apparently a reference to Figures 43A and 43B, as well as Figure 44A. However, as shown in Figure 44A, the vacuum chuck having the U-shaped configuration would be incapable of flattening the sheet. Clearly, all the chuck hand 608 does is carry the glass-face plate into the assembling/bonding apparatus 620. See column 40, lines 35-39.

Further, as shown in Figure 44A, the U-shaped chuck hand 608 connects to what is apparently the glass sheet through asbestos pads 609. See column 41, line 26. It is not determinable how the chucking hand 608 in the shape it is, acting through asbestos pads 609, could effect any flattening of the underlying sheet.

Therefore, reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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